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Elmwood, 20<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>o</sup>, 1876.

Dear Sir,

My friendship with Judge Hoar & my respect for his character are of too long date to be shaken by any difference of opinion on a question of expediency, for that (if I understood it rightly) was the point on which we divided at Cincinnati. Mr Hoar's action & influence there were at the time very strangely misrepresented at home. I thought then & think now that a fifth of the proof that failed to convince him in Blaine's case would have been ample for the conviction of Butler, but I certainly liked him none the less for being faithful to his own opinion & to his friend.

As to speaking in the Canvap, it is quite out of the question. I long ago laid to heart the upon never to attempt what I could not do with all my might

s with the sympathy of all my faculties. I  
do not know what training might have  
done for me, but the habit of years  
has made me the most fortunate man  
conceivable for a stump-speaker. Moreover,  
even were it otherwise, I am so wholly out  
of sympathy with the manner in which  
the Republican canvas has been thus far  
mainly conducted & with the men who have  
been prominent in it, that my contribution  
would be at best but a bucket of cold water.  
Judge Hoar & I are at opposite points of  
the compass on the Southern question. I feel  
therefore that I am only acting loyally  
with my friendship for him in declining to  
encumber him with what would be but  
awkward help. If I thought I could make  
an effective speech in his behalf, I would  
not hesitate a moment. Had it been  
earlier in the canvas, it might have been  
possible, but, apart from other considerations,

I am just now suffering a depression from  
physical causes which peculiarly unfit me  
for any such exertion. What my wishes &  
hopes are I need not say, & Judge Hoar won't  
be the last person to misunderstand them.

I remain

Very truly yours

Melville

Horatio  
6/19/81  
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